Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in

the application:

1–2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A layout system, comprising:

a layout device for selecting items of published information from a plurality of

items of published information and for making a layout for the selected published

information, the layout device capable of performing a layout process by storing at least one

item of published information in at least one information storage region arranged in a layout

region;

wherein:

an information storage region includes identification data and arrangement

control data;

items of published information includes identification data and arrangement

control data; and

the layout device is configured to compare the identification data of the

information storage region with the identification data of an item of published information to

determine whether the published information is to be stored in the information storage region

on the basis of matching identification data, the layout device further configured that if there

are no items of published information suitable to be stored in the information storage region

on the basis of matching identification data, the layout device then determines if any item of

published information is to be stored in the information storage region based on the

arrangement control data of an item of published information and the information storage

region.

~~a layout device to select published information from a plurality of pieces of published information and to make a layout for the selected published information, the layout device performing a layout process by storing the selected published information in information storage regions arranged in a layout region;~~

~~the information storage regions and the published information having respectively added thereto identification information to make the information storage regions and the published information correspond to each other, and arrangement control information to control the arrangement in the information storage regions; and~~

~~the layout device being adapted to store the published information in the information storage regions on the basis of the arrangement control information when there are no information storage regions or published information suitable to store the published information in the information storage regions on the basis of the identification information.~~

4.   (Currently Amended) A layout system, comprising:

a published information storage device to store a plurality of <u>items</u> ~~pieces~~ of published information; and

a layout device <u>for selecting items of</u> ~~to select the~~ published information from the published information storage device and to make a layout for the selected published information, the layout device <u>capable of</u> performing a layout process by storing the selected <u>items of</u> published information in information storage regions arranged in a layout region;

<u>wherein:</u>

<u>an information storage region includes identification data and arrangement control data;</u>

<u>items of published information includes identification data and arrangement control data; and</u>

_____ the layout device is configured to compare the identification data of the information storage region with the identification data of an item of published information to determine whether the published information is to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of matching or related identification data, the layout device further configured that if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of the identification data, the layout device then determines if any item of published information is to be stored in the information storage region based on the arrangement control data of an item of published information and the information storage region.

~~_____ the information storage regions and the published information having respectively added thereto identification information to make the information storage regions and the published information correspond to each other, and arrangement control information to control the arrangement in the information storage regions; and~~

~~_____ the layout device being adapted to determine whether there are an information storage region and published information having added thereto identical or related identification information by comparing the identification information added to the published information with that added to the information storage regions, and then, when it is determined that there are an information storage region and published information having added thereto identical or identification information, the layout device being adapted to store relevant published information in the relevant information storage region, and when it is determined that there are no information storage regions and published information having added thereto identical or related identification information, the layout device being adapted to store the published information in the information storage region on the basis of the arrangement control information added to the information storage region and the published information.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to ~~Claim 4~~ claim 4, the arrangement control data ~~information~~ of an item of published information being settable to: ~~either~~

_____state 1 where the item ~~published information should~~ must only be stored in an information storage region having matching or related identification data, ~~added thereto identification information identical or related thereto,~~ or

_____state 2 where the published information does not have to ~~may~~ be stored in an information storage region having matching or related identification data. ~~other than the one having added thereto identification information identical or related thereto.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to ~~Claim 5~~ claim 5, wherein the arrangement control data of an information storage region being settable to:

_____state 1, where an item of published information must only be stored in the information storage region if the item has matching or related identification data, or

_____state 2, where an item of published information does not have to have matching or related identification data to be stored in the information storage region,

_____wherein if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of the identification data, and the arrangement control data of the information storage region is set to state 2, the layout device is configured to select from the published information storage device an item of published information not having any identification data for storage in the information storage region. ~~when there is no published information having added thereto identification information identical or related to that added to an information storage region as a target to be stored, in the published information storage device, and when arrangement control information added to the information storage region is set to state 2, the layout device being adapted to select published information not having added thereto the identification information from the published~~

~~information storage device, and to store the selected published information in the information~~

~~storage region as a target to be stored.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to ~~Claim 6~~ claim 6, wherein if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of the identification data, and the arrangement control data of the information storage region is set to state 2, and if there are no items of published information not having any identification data, the layout device is configured to select from the published information storage device an item of published information having arrangement control data set to state 2 for storage in the information storage region.

~~when there is no published information not having added thereto identification information,~~

~~in the published information storage device, the layout device being adapted to select~~

~~published information having the arrangement control information set to the state 2 from the~~

~~published information storage device and to store in the information storage region as a target~~

~~to be stored the selected published information.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to claim 5, wherein if there are no information storage regions suitable to store an item of published information on the basis of identification data, and the arrangement control data of the item of published information is set to state 2, the layout device is configured to select in a layout region an information storage region not having any identification data for storing the item of published information.

~~Claim 5, when there is no information storage region having added thereto identification~~

~~information identical or related to that added to the published information as a target to be~~

~~stored, in the layout region, and when the arrangement control information added to the~~

~~published information is set to the state 2, the layout device being adapted to select an~~

~~information storage region not having added thereto the identification information from the~~

~~layout region and to store in the selected information storage region the published information~~

~~as a target to be stored.~~

9.   (Currently Amended) The layout system according to <u>claim 8, wherein if there</u>

<u>are no information storage region not having any identification data in the layout region, the</u>

<u>layout device is configured to select an information storage region having arrangement</u>

<u>control data set to state 2 for storing the item of published information.</u>

~~Claim 8, when there are no information storage regions not having added thereto the~~

~~identification information, in the layout region, the layout device being adapted to select an~~

~~information storage region having the arrangement control information set to the state 2 from~~

~~the layout region, and to store in the selected information storage region the published~~

~~information as a target to be stored.~~

10.   (Currently Amended) The layout system according to ~~Claim 4~~ <u>claim 4,</u>

<u>wherein</u> the arrangement control <u>data</u> ~~information being able~~ <u>is configurable</u> to set ~~the~~ <u>a</u>

<u>degree of</u> similarity of identification <u>data</u> ~~information which is allowable~~ <u>required</u> ~~when the~~

<u>for an item of</u> published information ~~is~~ <u>to be</u> stored in an information storage region having

~~added thereto~~ identification <u>data</u> ~~information~~ identical or related to the <u>item of</u> published

information.

11.   (Currently Amended) The layout system according to ~~Claim 10~~ <u>claim 10,</u>

<u>wherein if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in a target</u>

<u>information storage region on the basis of identical or related identification data,</u> ~~when there~~

~~is no published information having added thereto identification information identical or~~

~~related to that added to an information storage region as a target to be stored, in the published~~

~~information storage device,~~ the layout device ~~being adapted~~ <u>is configured</u> to select from the

published information storage device <u>an item of</u> published information having ~~added thereto~~

~~the~~ identification <u>data</u> ~~information whose~~ <u>with a degree of</u> similarity to the identification <u>data</u>

information added to the <u>target</u> information storage region as a target to be stored is greater

than <s>that of</s> the <u>degree of similarity of identification data required by the</u> arrangement control

data <s>information added to</s> <u>of</u> the <u>target</u> information storage region as a target to be stored, and

to store the selected <u>item of</u> published information in the <u>target</u> information storage region as

a target to be stored.

    12.   (Currently Amended) The layout system according to <u>claim 10, wherein if</u>

<u>there are no information storage regions suitable to store an item of published information on</u>

<u>the basis of identical or related identification data, the layout device is configured to select in</u>

<u>a layout region an information storage region having identification data with a degree of</u>

<u>similarity to the identification data of the item of published information greater than the</u>

<u>degree of similarity of identification data required by the arrangement control data of the item</u>

<u>of published information, and to store the item of published information in the selected</u>

<u>information storage region.</u>

<s>Claim 10, when there are no information storage regions having added thereto identification</s>

<s>information identical or related to that added to the published information as a target to be</s>

<s>stored, in the layout region, the layout device being adapted to select from the layout region</s>

<s>the information storage region having added thereto the identification information whose</s>

<s>similarity to the identification information added to the published information as a target to be</s>

<s>stored is greater than that of the arrangement control information added to the published</s>

<s>information as a target to be stored, and to store in the selected information storage region the</s>

<s>published information as a target to be stored.</s>

    13.   (Currently Amended) The layout system according to <s>Claim 10</s> <u>claim 10,</u>

<u>wherein</u> the <u>degree of</u> similarity being a <u>calculated</u> value <u>determined</u> according to <u>a</u> <s>the</s>

distance between <s>the</s> pieces of identification <u>data</u> <s>information</s> in a word system when the

meanings of words given as the identification <u>data</u> <s>information</s> are systemized.

14. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to claim 4, wherein if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in a target information storage region ~~Claim 4, when there is, in the layout region, an information storage region where the published information cannot be otherwise stored~~, the layout device is configured ~~being adapted~~ to delete the ~~relevant~~ target information storage region.

15. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to claim 4, wherein if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in a target information storage region, the layout device is configured to ~~Claim 4, when there is, in the layout region, an information storage region where the published information cannot be otherwise stored, the layout device being adapted to~~ store margin-filling information in the ~~relevant~~ target information storage region.

16. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to claim 4 ~~Claim 4~~, further comprising an identification-data ~~information~~ adding device to add ~~the~~ identification data ~~information~~ to ~~the~~ an item of published information,

——————the identification-data ~~information~~ adding device ~~being adapted~~ configured to analyze the contents of ~~the~~ an item of published information and to add ~~the~~ identification data ~~information~~ to the item of published information on the basis of the analysis results.

17. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to claim 4 ~~Claim 4~~, wherein an item of ~~the~~ published information ~~having added thereto a~~ has a plurality of pieces of ~~the~~ identification data, wherein each piece of identification data is assigned a level of priority ~~information having priority~~, and

if there are no items of published information in the published information storage device suitable to be stored in a target information storage region on the basis of identification data having a predetermined level of priority, ~~when identification information having a predetermined level of priority, among the identification information added to the~~

~~published information is taken as a target and it is determined that there is no published~~

~~information having added thereto identification information identical or related to that added~~

~~to an information storage region as a target to be stored, in the published information storage~~

~~device,~~ the layout device is configured to select from the published information storage

device an item of published information for storage in the target information storage region

on the basis that the selected item of published information has identification data, with a

priority level one level lower than the predetermined level, that is identical or related to the

identification data of the information storage region.

~~being adapted to take as target identification information having a priority one level lower~~

~~than the predetermined level of priority, among the identification information added to the~~

~~published information, and to select from the published information storage device the~~

~~published information having added thereto identification information identical or related to~~

~~that added to the information storage region as a target to be stored.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to <u>claim 4, wherein an</u>

information storage region has a plurality of pieces of identification data, wherein each piece

of identification data is assigned a level of priority, and

if there are no information storage regions suitable to store a target item of

published information on the basis of identification data having a predetermined level of

priority, the layout device is configured to select an information storage region to store the

target item of published information on the basis that the selected information storage region

has identification data, with a priority level one level lower than the predetermined level, that

is identical or related to the identification data of the item of published information.

~~Claim 4, the information storage region having added thereto a plurality of pieces of the~~

~~identification information having priority, and~~

~~when identification information having a predetermined level of priority, among the identification information added to the information storage regions is taken as a target and it is determined that there are no information storage regions having added thereto identification information identical or related to that added to published information as a target to be stored, in the layout region, the layout device being adapted to take as target identification information having a priority one level lower than the predetermined level of priority, among the identification information added to the information storage regions, and to select from the layout region an information storage region having added thereto identification information identical or related to that added to the published information as a target to be stored.~~

19.   (Currently Amended) The layout system according to <u>claim 4</u> ~~Claim 4~~, further comprising a user information storage device to store user information regarding a user, the layout device being adapted to select published information from the published information storage device on the basis of the user information in the user information storage device.

20.   (Currently Amended) The layout system according to <u>claim 4</u> ~~Claim 4~~, further comprising a user information storage device to store user information regarding a user, the layout device being adapted to make a layout for the published information on the basis of the user information in the user information storage device.

21–22. (Canceled)

23.   (Currently Amended) A layout program, comprising:

<u>a layout program for selecting items of published information from a plurality of items of published information and for making a layout for the selected items of published information, the layout program capable of performing a layout process by storing at least one item of selected items of published information in at least one information storage region arranged in a layout region;</u>

wherein:

an information storage region includes identification data and arrangement control data;

items of published information includes identification data and arrangement control data; and

the layout program is configured to compare the identification data of the information storage region with the identification data of an item of published information to determine whether the item of published information is to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of matching identification data, the layout program further configured that if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of matching identification data, the layout program then determines if any item of published information is to be stored in the information storage region based on the arrangement control data of an item of published information and the information storage region.

~~a layout program for selecting published information from a plurality of pieces of published information and for making a layout for the selected published information, the layout program performing a layout process by storing the selected published information in information storage regions arranged in a layout region;~~

~~the information storage regions and the published information having respectively added thereto identification information to make the information storage regions and the published information correspond to each other, and arrangement control information to control the arrangement in the information storage regions; and~~

~~when there is no information storage region or published information suitable to store the published information in the information storage regions on the basis of the identification information, the layout program being adapted to store the published~~

~~information in the information storage regions on the basis of the arrangement control~~

~~information.~~

24.   (Currently Amended) A layout program, comprising:

_____ a published information storage program to store a plurality of items of

published information; and

_____ a layout program for selecting items of published information from the

published information storage program and to make a layout for the selected items of

published information, the layout program capable of performing a layout process by storing

the selected items of published information in information storage regions arranged in a

layout region;

_____ wherein:

_____ an information storage region includes identification data and arrangement

control data;

_____ items of published information includes identification data and arrangement

control data; and

_____ the layout program is configured to compare the identification data of the

information storage region with the identification data of an item of published information to

determine whether the published information is to be stored in the information storage region

on the basis of matching or related identification data, the layout program further configured

that if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in the information

storage region on the basis of the identification data, the layout program then determines if

any item of published information is to be stored in the information storage region based on

the arrangement control data of an item of published information and the information storage

region.

a published information storage program for storing a plurality of pieces of published information; and

a layout program for selecting the published information from the published information storage program and for making a layout for the selected published information, the layout program performing a layout process by storing the selected published information in information storage regions arranged in a layout region;

the information storage regions and the published information having respectively added thereto identification information to make the information storage regions and the published information correspond to each other, and arrangement control information to control the arrangement in the information storage regions; and

the layout program being adapted to determine whether there are an information storage region and published information having added thereto identical or related identification information by comparing the identification information added to the published information with that added to the information storage regions, and then, when there are an information storage region and published information having added thereto identical or related identification information, the layout program being adapted to store relevant published information in the relevant information storage region, and when there is no information storage region and published information having added thereto identical or related identification information, the layout program being adapted to store the published information in the information storage regions on the basis of arrangement control information added to the relevant information storage regions and published information.

25–26. (Canceled)

27.   (Currently Amended) A layout method, comprising:

selecting items of published information from a plurality of items of published information;

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       making a layout for the selected published information, and performing a layout process by storing at least one item of selected published information in at least one information storage region arranged in a layout region;

       adding to an information storage region identification data and arrangement control data;

       adding to an item of published information identification data and arrangement control data; and

       comparing the identification data of the information storage region with the identification data of an item of published information to determine whether the published information is to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of matching identification data, and if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of matching identification data, determining if any item of published information is to be stored in the information storage region based on the arrangement control data of an item of published information and the information storage region.

       ~~selecting published information from a plurality of pieces of published information; and~~

       ~~making a layout for the selected published information, the layout being performed by storing the selected published information in the information storage regions arranged in a layout region;~~

       ~~the information storage regions and the published information having respectively added thereto identification information to make the information storage regions and the published information correspond to each other, and arrangement control information to control the arrangement in the information storage regions; and~~

~~when there is no information storage region and published information suitable to store the published information in the information storage regions on the basis the identification information, the layout being adapted to store the published information in the information storage region on the basis of the arrangement control information.~~

28.   (Currently Amended) A layout method, comprising:

selecting items of published information from a plurality of items of published information;

making a layout for the selected published information, and performing a layout process by storing at least one item of selected published information in at least one information storage region arranged in a layout region;

adding to an information storage region identification data and arrangement control data;

adding to an item of published information identification data and arrangement control data; and

comparing the identification data of the information storage region with the identification data of an item of published information to determine whether the published information is to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of matching or related identification data, and if there are no items of published information suitable to be stored in the information storage region on the basis of matching or related identification data, determining if any item of published information is to be stored in the information storage region based on the arrangement control data of an item of published information and the information storage region.

~~selecting published information from a published information storage device to store a plurality of pieces of published information; and~~

~~making a layout for the selected published information, the layout being performed by storing the selected published information in the information storage regions arranged in a layout region;~~

~~the information storage regions and the published information having respectively added thereto identification information to make the information storage regions and the published information correspond to each other, and arrangement control information to control the arrangement in the information storage regions; and~~

~~the layout determining whether there are an information storage region and published information having added thereto identical or related identification information by comparing the identification information added to the published information with that added to the information storage regions, and then, when there are an information storage region and published information having added thereto identical or related identification information, the layout being adapted to store the published information in the information storage regions, and when there is no information storage region and published information having added thereto identical or related identification information, the layout being adapted to store the published information in the information storage regions on the basis of the arrangement control information added to the information storage region and the published information.~~